GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3337
ANSWERED ON:05.02.2004
EXPLORATION OF OIL IN RAJASTHAN
KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large petroleum reserves has been found recently in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the estimated availability in the reserve found and places where exploration of oil is being done at present;

(c) the time by which the oil extraction and production is likely to commence;

(d) its likely impacts on import of oil;

(e) whether in view of huge discovery of oil reserves in Rajasthan, the Government propose to set up oil refineries in the State particularly in Barmer District; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a) and (b): M/s Cairn Energy (India) Pty. Ltd. has informed of a newoil discovery made recently in the Block RJ-ON-90/1 in the Barmer district of the State of Rajasthan. The initial inplace oil reserves estimate of the discovery made by the operator are in the range of 60-150 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) approximately. In addition, initial inplace reserves of oil inSaraswati and Rageshwari discoveries in the same block are estimated to be about 14 MMT and 21 MMT respectively, as on 1.4.2003.

As per Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs), the exploration work has been undertakenin five exploration blocks in the districts of Barmer, Bikaner, Ganganagar, Hanumangarh and Jaisalmer of the State of Rajasthan.

A high level delegation would visit the block on 10th February, 2004 to assess the situation.

(c): As per provisions of the PSC, the commencement of oil production from the discoverydepends on the commerciality after appraisal and submission of development plan by the operator.

(d): Increase in domestic oil production from the discovery is likely to reduce the import of oil to that extent.

(e) & (f): Setting up of a new refinery in the State of Rajasthan would be consideredbased on the demand-supply scenario emerging in the country.